

adults. When the attack was made on the pupae in cocoons, the adult pierced its stylets from a distance as otherwise the claws often got entangled in the webbings of the cocoons. Larvæ and pupæ remaining in stems and fruits were not attacked. The females were more virulent than the males with regard to the attack of the host. More than one nymph and adult may attack simultaneously a single host. The nymphs were observed sucking the body content of the host for 3 to 4 hours at a stretch. And adult female could overpower a larva of sphinx moth which was 37.2 times as heavy as the predator itself.

From a study to ascertain the maximum number of larvae eaten per day per individual, it was observed that the first four nymphal instars utilized less than one full grown larva of *C. cephalonica*. Once their appetite was satisfied, the nymphs did not attack the larvae even though the latter were in close proximity. However, the fifth instar nymphs and the adults sucked up the larvae at the rate of 1 and 5 respectively per day.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We express our sincere thanks to the Director, Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London for identifying the insect.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY,
ORISSA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE
AND TECHNOLOGY, BHUBANESWAR 3,
ORISSA,

J. M. SATPATHY
N. C. PATNAIK
A. P. SAMALO

November 22, 1972.

29. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *HOMOEOCERUS TAPROBANENSIS* DIST. (HEMIPTERA: COREIDAE) FROM POONA WITH A NOTE ON THE SCUTELLAR LEVIGATE LINE

Distant (1902)¹ while describing the species *Homoeocerus taprobanensis* had observed the presence of a central levigate line on head, pronotum and scutellum with the remark that it was obsolete on head. While studying some specimens from Poona I observed that the central levigate line to be well marked and continuous from head to the apex of scutellum in eight specimens, but in four others it was faint and slightly interrupted in the middle, in the region of scutellum. *Homoeocerus taprobanensis* was originally described from Sri Lanka and there is no further report available regarding its distribution.

¹ DISTANT, W. L. (1902): The Fauna of British India, Rhynchota 1:365-366.

Other characters: Lateral margins of pronotum pale levigate, convexium piceous with ochraceous spots, membrane piceous, sternum punctate.

Locality: Agricultural college, Poona, 8-ii-62. S. N. Chaubey, 12 exs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank Dr. B. K. Tikader, Dy. Director, Western Regional Station, Poona, for facilities offered.

WESTERN REGIONAL STATION,
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
POONA 5,
December 26, 1972.

K. RAMACHANDRA RAO

30. A PREDACIOUS PENTATOMID BUG, *CANTHECONIDEA FURCELLATA* (WOLFF) ATTACKING *LATOIA LEPIDA* (CRAMER) ON MANGO NEAR BANGALORE

(With three plates)

Our indigenous insect predators of crop pests have not received as much attention as have the parasites and very little information is available on them (Narayanan *et al.* 1967). Except for the more important predatory groups like the Coccinellidae for example, which have been fairly well studied, other equally useful groups—among whom may be mentioned the Mantodea, Reduviidae, Pentatomidae (Asopinae), Neuroptera, Carabidae, Asilidae, Syrphidae (Syrphinae), Chamaemyiidae and particularly the very abundant Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae)—have been overlooked in India.

During the course of my field surveys connected with studies on the Coccinellidae and Syrphidae, I came across a serious infestation of the slug caterpillar *Latoia* (= *Parasa*) *lepida* (Cramer) [Lepidoptera: Limacodidae] on some mango trees on a farm near Bangalore. On closer observation, several groups of the nymphs of *Cantheconidea*¹ *furcellata* (Wolff) [Hemiptera: Pentatomidae: Asopinae] were noticed on the cocoon-covered trunks (see plate I). The red and black coloured nymphs in all stages of development and the brownish adult bugs were observed attacking all instars of the host larvae including recently pupated ones.

The bug approached its prey stealthily, with rostrum extended, the

¹ The generic name is sometimes misspelled *Cantheconidia* by authors.